The Member also suggested the formation of an Executive Council of five Members with the Dewan as President, two-fifths of the Members being non-official elected Members.

Dean's reply.—Noted.

145. Formation of Taluk Boards.

Mr. V. Ramakrishna Panikkar (Member, T. I. C., Haripad) said that, in 1087, there were Education Boards. They ceased to exist because of defective organization. They had been now revived under the name of Educational Service Committees. Though nothing tangible had been achieved by them till now, those Committees were useful in providing buildings for schools, maintaining and repairing them, inducing people to send their children to schools and watching the work and private conduct of teachers who should be living examples to the pupils. The clamour for schools was on the increase and the expenditure on education was also going up. That being so, it would be well to constitute Boards for at least the Lower Grade Vernacular schools.

There was a good deal of work to be done under Agriculture which could be carried out by an organised body.

Under public works and sanitation also, much useful work could be done. Every year, Members of the Assembly had been representing the necessity for roads, bridges, buildings and other public works. It was impossible for Government to accede to all those requests.

The *Tadasthars* in the various *pakuthies* would be of great use in the administration of Civil and Criminal Justice.

For public works of the kind referred to above, it was highly necessary to form District, Taluk and Pakuthi Boards and also levy a local cess. There should be at least two non-official Members for each *pakuthi* on the Taluk Board, the Tahsildar being made President.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions of the Member will receive careful consideration in connection with the contemplated legislation for Taluk Boards.

146. Want of uniformity in the unit of grain measure in Nanjanad.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram Taluk) said that, in the rules under the Weights and Measures Regulation, dated 1st June 1912, it was declared that a Nanjanad *marakkal* was equivalent to 4·4583 *edangalies*. A *kotta* had been held to be equivalent to 9 *paras* and $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalies* according to the standard settlement *para*. The adoption of the above rates worked hardship on the Nanjanad ryots. The original equivalent of the *kotta* in Nanjanad was 9 *paras* and $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalies* according to the *vengalapara*. The cubical contents of a *vengalapara* were, according to the Member, 640 cubic inches. At the Settlement, however, the standard unit, namely, an *edangali* of 80 cubic inches, was presumably intended to apply to Nanjanad as well. A *kotta* was recognized in all Government transactions as equivalent to 9 *paras* and $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalies* the *para* being fixed at 800 cubic inches by Royal Proclamation. In 1906, the grain tax was abolished and Dewan Mr. Madhava Rao's commutation scheme came into force with effect from 1st Chingom 1082. The ryots of Nanjanad put in a petition to the Government praying for definite orders as to the rate at which the paddy tax paid by them should be converted into money under the G. O. abolishing payment in kind. The Government directed an enquiry into the matter as a result of which it was laid down in Government Order No. 15436/R6634, dated 13th September 1906, that 8 *paras* and $6\frac{1}{2}$ *edangalies* of the standard of 800 cubic inches per *para*, which was the equivalent of the smallest of the then existing *kottas*, should be adopted as the rate of conversion for commuting the paddy tax into money in the taluks of Tovala and Agastiswaram. The above arrangement was, however, not made applicable to the *Sripandaravagai* dues. Those dues had to be paid at the old equivalent of 9 *paras* and $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalies* per *kotta* according to the old *vengalapara*. The Member said that the above arrangement worked real hardship on the ryots especially in the matter of paying up the dues to the *Sripandaravagai*. For, according to the old practice, the ryots had only to pay at the rate of 9 *paras* and $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalies* per *para* of 640 cubic inches as the equivalent of

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